IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims, without prejudice or disclaimer, to read as follows (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed as a separate document):

1. (Thrice amended) A method of making a chimeric mouse, comprising:

a. creating an immunetolerant mouse which has a degenerated liver due to the presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) and which is lacking functional T and B cells; and

b. transplanting xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes to repopulate the parenchyma of the degenerated liver, said xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes being infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus.

8. (Thrice amended) A chimeric mouse model system for hepatitis comprising an immunetolerant mouse lacking functional T and B cells having a degenerated liver parenchyma due to presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) that is repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes, said xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes infected with a compatible mammalian hepatitis virus.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for screening a test compound for anti-viral activity, comprising:

a. administering said test compound to an immunetolerant chimeric mouse lacking functional T and B cells which has a degenerated liver parenchyma due to presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) that is repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes and wherein the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes are infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus; and

b. assaying the level of replication of the virus.

25. (Twice amended) A method for screening a test compound for anti-cancer activity, comprising:

a. administering said test compound to immunetolerant chimeric mice lacking functional T and B cells which have degenerated liver parenchyma due to presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) that is repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes and wherein the xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes are infected with at least one compatible mammalian hepatitis virus capable of causing hepatocellular carcinoma in said xenogenic hepatocytes; and

b. assaying said mice for the development of hepatocellular carcinoma.

37. (Amended) A method of making a chimeric mouse, comprising:

a. creating an immunetolerant mouse, said immunetolerant mouse having a degenerated liver due to the presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) and lacking functional T and B cells; and

b. repopulating the parenchyma of the degenerated liver by transplanting xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes that are a natural host for infection with one or more compatible hepatitis virus into said liver.

38. (Amended) A chimeric mouse model system for hepatitis comprising an immunetolerant mouse deficient in T and B cells having a degenerated liver parenchyma due to the presence of a secreted urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) that is repopulated with transplanted xenogenic mammalian hepatocytes that are a natural host for infection with one or more compatible hepatitis virus.